action in pursuance of the Supreme Court's order dated 13.10.1999 and 7.12.1999 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 559/1994-R.D. Upadhayaya Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh and Others.

The Central Government have sanctioned a scheme of setting up 1734 Fast Track Courts on the basis of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission for disposing off long pending sessions cases and other cases involving undertrials on priority.

Solving of North-Eastern insurgency problem

1820. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news article which appeared in 'Lokmat Times', dated the 17th January, 2002, under the heading "Centre not serious to solve North-Eastern insurgency"; and

(b) if so, what is the response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or propose to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Government has seen the news article. There are reports of some militant groups taking shelter in Bangladesh. The issue is regularly taken up on bilateral basis with Bangladesh. Bangladesh has repeatedly stated categorically that it will not allow its territory to be used for terrorism or against the interests of another friendly country.

Impact of Islamabad's crackdown on terrorists outfits

1821. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state what is Government's assessment of the impact of the reported crack-down by Islamabad on terrorist outfits like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e>Mohammad and their cross-border terrorist activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): Immediately after President Musharaf's January 12 announcements, Pakistan Government did take some steps like freezing of assets of Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, closing their offices and arrests of several of their activists. However Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Toiba have vowed to continue their activities in J&K. Terrorist leader based in Pakistan continue their attempts to infiltrate groups of terrorists across the border and exhort the cadres to carry on Jehad.

Progress in Peace Talk at Bangkok

1822. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the achievements of peace talks at Bangkok till date; and

(b) whether ULFA problems have also been brought in the negotiating talks in Bangkok?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) With the cessation of hostilities between NSCN (IM) and security forces, the level of violence has come down substantially. The cease-fire agreement, which was initially for a period of 3 months only with effect from 1st August, 1997, has been operative now for the last four and a half years and has brought about peace in Nagaland and in the adjoining areas. The Peace Talks have helped both sides in understanding and appreciating each other's point of view.

(b) No, Sir.